

From: Rick Nelson [mailto:rbrnelsoncausa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2006 1:58 PM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Support for Package 2

Hi! I would like to urge the adoption of Package 2 and the strong opposition to package S. I am a diver and dive instructor who frequently dives in Monterey and Carmel, and the fish populations are pretty sparse in those areas already, particularly in Monterey Bay. It is a rare occasion when we see much fish of any significant size in the shallower waters, with the exception of Pt. Lobos. By limiting the taking of species within the proposed areas, it is hoped that a healthy nursery area can be established and the fish populations will have a chance at recovery. When I see spearfishing at areas such as Monastery, the fish that are caught are juveniles, which means that they are not allowed the opportunity to reproduce and replenish fish stocks. Removing the protections would only make the depletion of the species worse.

The establishment of protected areas such as has been done in portions of the Channel Islands has been shown to contribute to larger and healthier fish stocks. The presence of larger fish stocks will contribute to even more enthusiasm for experiencing the marvel of the California kelp beds and their many resident species.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

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